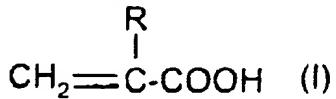


CLAIMS

1. Emulsion comprising an oily phase dispersed in an aqueous phase, characterized in that the globules of the oily phase have an average size of 5 less than 20 microns, in that the oily phase constitutes at least 15% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion and in that the aqueous phase contains at least one copolymer consisting of a major fraction of monoolefinically unsaturated C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> 10 carboxylic acid monomer or its anhydride and a minor fraction of acrylic acid fatty-chain ester monomer, and in that it is free of surfactant.

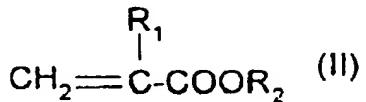
2. Emulsion according to Claim 1, characterized in that the amount of carboxylic acid monomer or of its anhydride in the copolymer ranges 15 from 80 to 98% by weight and in that the amount of ester monomer ranges from 20 to 2% by weight, the percentages by weight being expressed relative to the total weight of the two monomers.

20 3. Emulsion according to Claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that the carboxylic acid monomer is a compound of formula (I):



in which R denotes hydrogen, a halogen, a hydroxyl 25 group, a lactone group, a lactam group, a cyanogen group, a monovalent alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylaryl group, an aralkyl group or a cycloaliphatic

group, and in that the ester monomer is a compound of formula (II):



in which  $R_1$  is chosen from the group formed from 5 hydrogen, a methyl radical and an ethyl radical, and  $R_2$  is a  $C_8$ - $C_{30}$  alkyl group.

*Claim 3*

4. Emulsion according to the preceding ~~claim~~, characterized in that the carboxylic acid monomer is chosen from acrylic acid, methacrylic acid 10 and mixtures thereof, and in that the ester monomer is chosen from monomers of formula (II) in which  $R_1$  is hydrogen or a methyl radical and  $R_2$  is a  $C_{10}$ - $C_{22}$  alkyl group.

*Claim 4* 5. Emulsion according to any one of the 15 preceding claims, characterized in that the copolymer is present in an amount ranging from 0.1 to 4% by weight and preferably from 0.1 to 2% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion.

*Claim 5* 6. Emulsion according to any one of the 20 preceding claims, characterized in that the average size of the globules in the oily phase ranges from 0.5 to 15 microns.

*Claim 6* 7. Emulsion according to any one of the 25 preceding claims, characterized in that the oily phase of the emulsion represents from 15 to 45% by weight and preferably from 20 to 30% by weight relative to the total weight of the emulsion.

*Claim 8.* Emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it constitutes a cosmetic and/or dermatological composition.

*Claim 9.* Emulsion according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it contains at least one additive chosen from hydrophilic active agents, lipophilic active agents, preserving agents, antioxidants, fragrances, solvents, fillers, sunscreens, pigments, dyestuffs, basic agents, acidic agents, lipid vesicles and gelling agents.

*Claim 10.* Cosmetic use of the emulsion according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, for treating, protecting, caring for and/or cleansing the skin, mucous membranes and/or the hair, and/or for making up the skin and/or mucous membranes.

*Claim 11.* Use of the emulsion according to any one of Claims 1 to 9, for the manufacture of a dermatological composition intended for treating and/or protecting the skin, mucous membranes and/or the hair.

*Claim 12.* Process for manufacturing an emulsion as defined in Claims 1 to 9, which consists in introducing, under pressure, the oily phase into the aqueous phase containing the copolymer, through a hydrophilic porous glass membrane with an average pore size ranging from 0.1 to 5  $\mu\text{m}$  and preferably from 0.3 to 3  $\mu\text{m}$ , at a pressure greater than the critical pressure.

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13. Manufacturing process according to

Claim 12, characterized in that the pressure ranges  
from 30 to 350 kPa.

added  
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